

UPPER EYELID BLEPHAROPLASTY

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INDICATIONS

Excess skin may be an aesthetic concern or, if excessive, it may obstruct the upper visual field

At times it may contribute to a feeling of eyelid weightiness

The amount of apparent skin excess is influenced by size differences in the orbital openings and position of the eyebrow



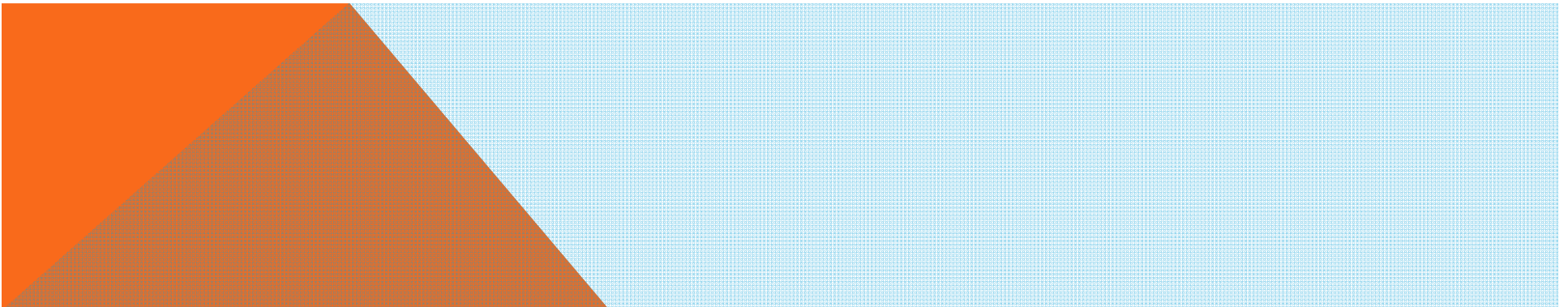
VISUAL OBSTRUCTION

Visual field obstruction is potentially a cause for health plan coverage of blepharoplasty

Specific requirements vary by plan but all require a visual field assessment and photographic documentation

In most cases these tests and a copy of your medical record are submitted to obtain a coverage decision before the procedure is performed

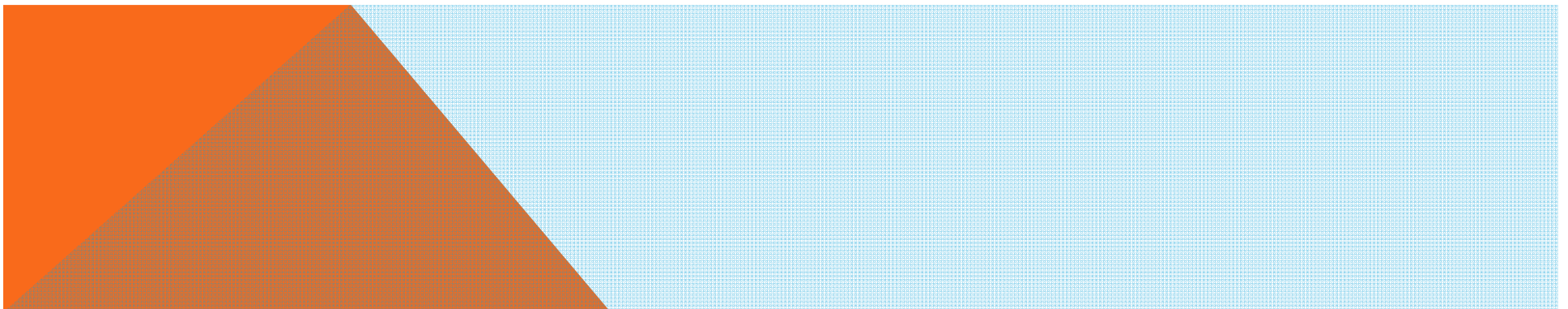
Medicare **is the exception to the above-they** require the same documentation but do give a coverage determination prior to performance of the procedure. In this case we, the provider, must determine if the tests meet Medicare guidelines. **Final approval rests with Medicare.** If we can't be certain guidelines are met, the patient must agree to cover the cost of the procedure in the case of claim rejection. This agreement is covered under the Advance Beneficiary Notice (ABN) agreement. Our charges will be fully explained prior to executing this agreement.



VISUAL FIELD TESTING AND PHOTOGRAPHY

The visual field is quantitated by a technique known as perimetry

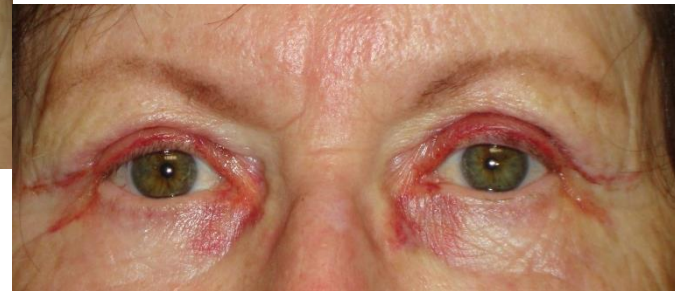
Photographs are taken in straight ahead position and both lateral positions so the health plan can see the skin position and relate it to the visual field



PHOTOGRAPHIC EXAMPLES OF BLEPHAROPLASTY FOR VISUAL FIELD OBSTRUCTION (R UPPER LID)



Preoperative views-note the effect of the higher right eyebrow on the amount of apparent skin



Six days postoperative



Two months postoperative

THE BLEPHAROPLASTY PROCEDURE

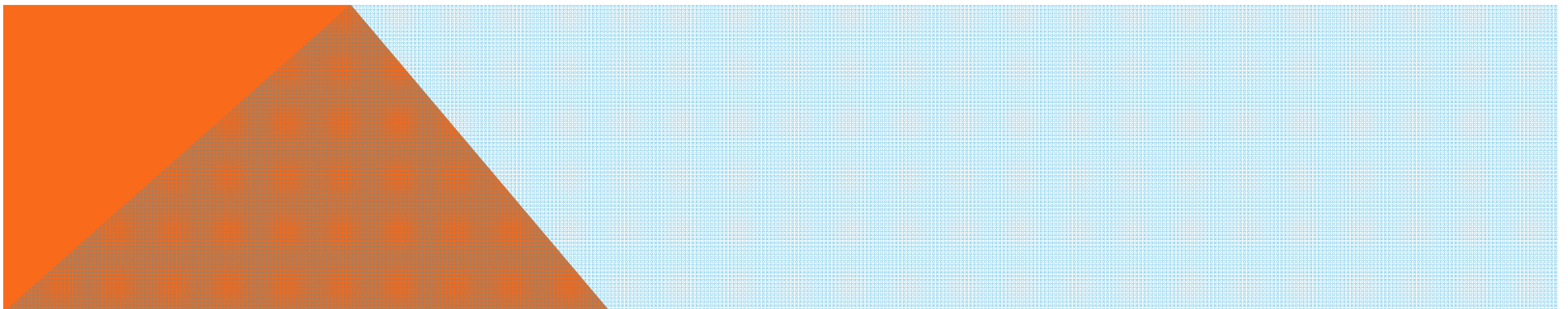
Performed under light general anesthesia

Operative time is approximately 30 minutes

Sutures are absorbable

Minimal to no pain

Total time at the surgical facility: about 4 hours



RISK AND COMPLICATIONS

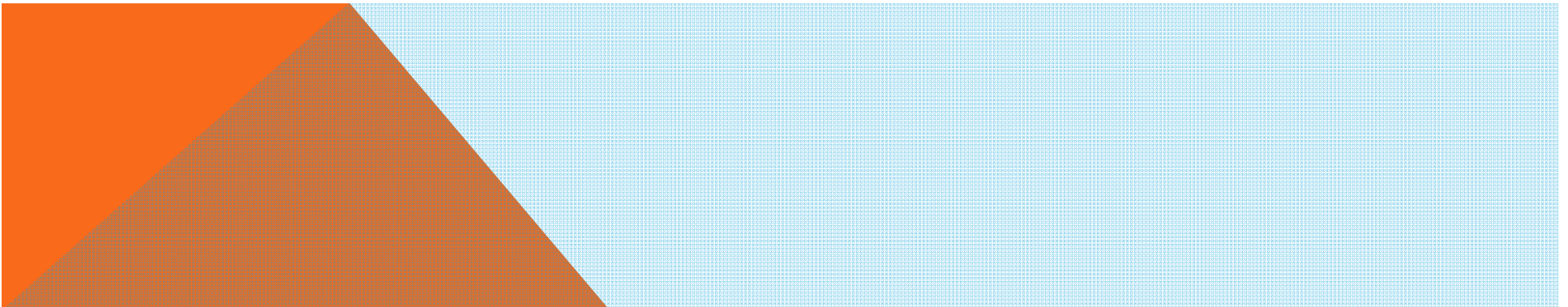
Generally few complications

Too much skin removed-we follow a conservative skin removal formula that keeps focus on the fact that the eyelid function is to protect the eye by blinking

Visual loss: due to hemorrhage after surgery-very rare and has not happened to any of our patients (about 5000 cases)-imperative that drugs that cause bleeding (aspirin, nsaids, all blood thinning agents, fish oil, vitamin D) **be discontinued at the appropriate interval prior to surgery)**

Blood pressure in the normal range

Remember: pain is unusual and if it is experienced we need to know about it ASAP



For those interested in the actual details of the actual blepharoplasty procedure, a handout will be provided and a copy of the postoperative instructions is available. An extensive list of all known complications of blepharoplasty be given to you.

